

Amel.
(b) determining the amount of said signal produced by the mixture of step (a);

(c) treating said mixture under conditions for amplifying said target nucleic acid to produce amplified double-stranded DNA;

(d) determining the amount of said signal produced by said mixture of step (c); and

(e) determining if amplification has occurred.

9
10 (Amended) The method of Claim *4* ~~5~~, wherein the amount of target DNA in said sample, prior to amplification, is quantitated by determining the increase in fluorescence [before and after PCR] during amplification.

10
11 (Amended) A method for monitoring the increase in double-stranded DNA during amplification of a target nucleic acid in a sample, *wherein* said method comprises the steps of:

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3
(a) providing [a mixture that comprises a PCR] a mixture that comprises all components necessary for the selective amplification of said target nucleic acid by *polymerase chain reaction* (PCR) containing said sample and a DNA binding agent, wherein said agent is characterized as providing a detectable signal when bound to double-stranded nucleic acid which signal is *greater than the amount of said* distinguishable from the signal provided by said agent when it is unbound:

(b) determining the amount of said signal produced by the mixture of step (a);

(c) treating said mixture under conditions for amplifying said target nucleic acid; and

(d) determining the amount of said signal produced by said mixture during said treating step (c).

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